

Local Plan Tracker | Essex

May 2019

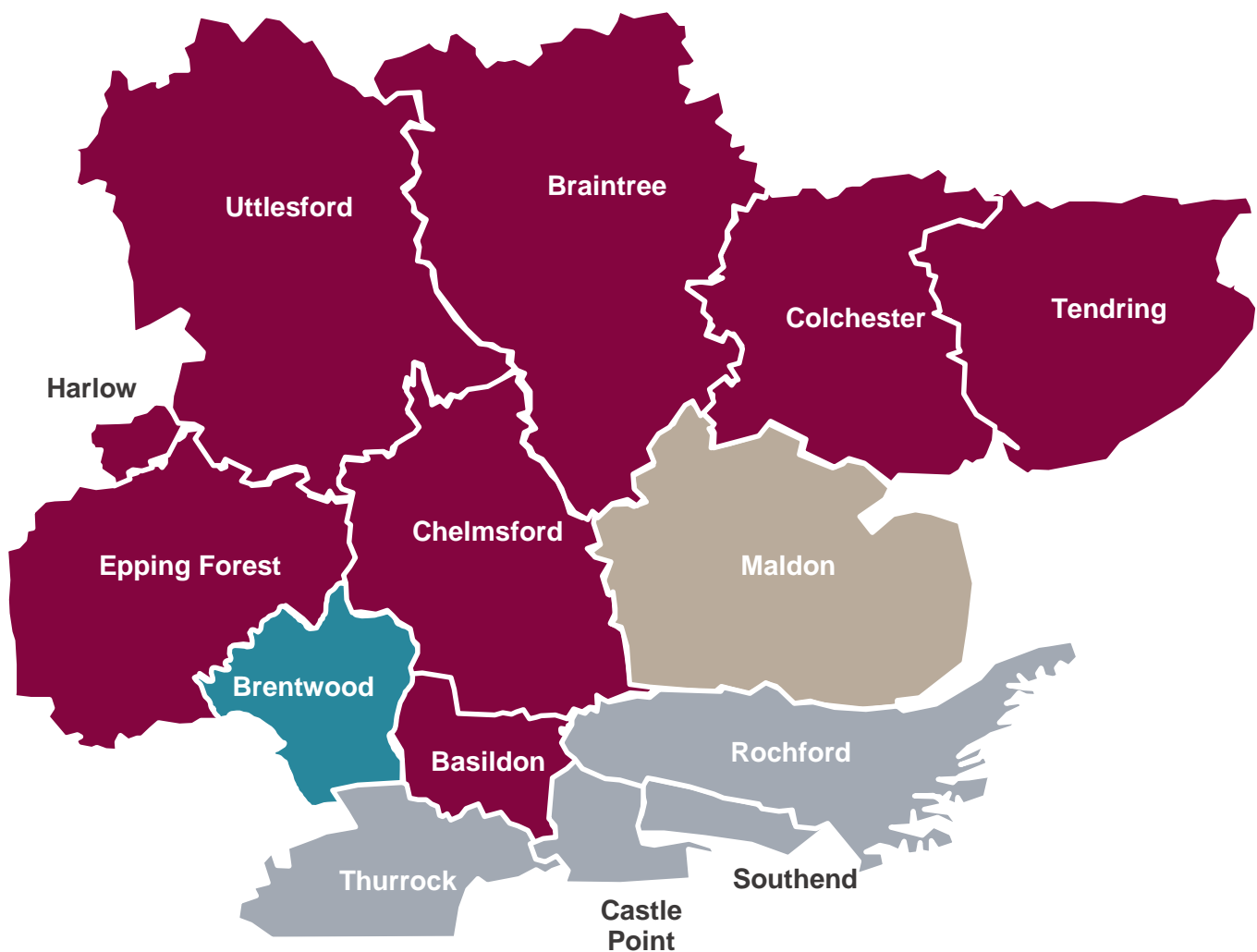
Regulation 18 – Public consultation

Regulation 19 – Publication of submission local plan

Regulation 22 – Submitted to Secretary of state

Regulation 24 – Examination

Approved / adopted



LOCAL AUTHORITY

CURRENT POSITION

Basildon

- The Local Plan was submitted for examination on 28th March 2019 – Inspector Paul Griffiths BSc (Hons) BArch IHBC was appointed by the Secretary of State to examine the Local Plan. Hearing sessions are yet to be timetabled.
- The RPLP acknowledges that it does not meet housing need in full.
- In addition to the Council's own Local Plan, the South Essex authorities (Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point, Rochford, Southend, and Thurrock) are preparing a Joint Strategic Plan (JSP) for the sub-region, addressing issues of strategic housing distribution and growth locations across the region.
- Initial consultation was initially expected in spring 2019, but now not anticipated until later in 2019.
- As part of work on the JSP, several 'Strategic Areas of Opportunity' have been identified which are considered to have potential to accommodate growth. These include the A127 Corridor.
- Initial consultation was initially expected in spring 2019, but now not anticipated until later in 2019.
- The JSP is scheduled for adoption in autumn 2020, but we consider this be a challenging target for the authorities, particularly given there has already been timetable slippage.

Braintree

- New Local Plan to comprise two parts: Section 1 being prepared jointly with Colchester and Tendring (the North Essex Authorities) and addressing strategic issues such as total housing requirements and garden communities; and Section 2 being prepared by the individual authority and including site-specific allocations.
- The Section 1 Strategic Plan Examination has been suspended following the Inspector's comments on soundness of evidence base regarding the North Essex Garden Communities.
- The Inspector's post-hearing letter invited the North Essex Authorities (NEAs) to consider 3 options for taking Section 1 forward.
- On the 19th October 2018, a joint letter from the NEAs was sent to the Inspector outlining an alternative Option 2. Key points:
 - Alternative Option 2 includes the NEAs carrying out necessary further work on the evidence base and SA and bringing forward any resulting revised strategic proposals, before the Commencement of the S2 Examinations. The S1 Examination would be suspended whilst the further work is carried out and consultation on the SA and any revised strategic proposals takes place. Further Section 1 hearings would need to be held to consider the revised strategic proposals.
 - The NEAs have also stated that the updated SA is scheduled to be available in January 2019, before being considered by Council in January / February 2019.
 - The NEAs have confirmed that Examination of Section 1 could take place after Local Elections, in June 2019.
- The Inspector responded to the NEAs joint letter in November 2018, setting out concerns with the proposed strategy, particularly in relation to Garden Communities.
- The examination is currently paused while the NEAs undertake additional work to support the Local Plan, and hearing sessions are anticipated to take place in autumn 2019.
- The NEA's submitted an update on Local Plan progress to the Inspector via a letter dated 1st April 2019. The letter confirms that the project remains on track to deliver on the previously agreed timescale and sets out the various summary of the NEA's approach to addressing the issues raised by the Inspector and subsequent updates on progress.
- Considerable uncertainty continues to surround the Section 1 examination process, with resultant delays to examination of Section 2.

Brentwood

- Regulation 19 Consultation concluded on 19th March 2019, but the Local Plan has yet to be submitted for examination.
- The South Essex authorities (Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point, Rochford, Southend, and Thurrock) are preparing a Joint Strategic Plan (JSP) for the sub-region, addressing issues of strategic housing distribution and growth locations across the region.
- Initial consultation was initially expected in spring 2019, but now not anticipated until later in 2019.
- As part of work on the JSP, several ‘Strategic Areas of Opportunity’ have been identified which are considered to have potential to accommodate growth. Crossrail connectivity / A12/A129 has been identified as one such potential opportunity, and it is intended for the JSP to explore the potential for a new garden community in relation to this.
- Initial consultation was initially expected in spring 2019, but now not anticipated until later in 2019.
- The JSP is scheduled for adoption in autumn 2020, but we consider this be a challenging target for the authorities, particularly given there has already been timetable slippage.

Castle Point

- The current adopted Local Plan is considerably out-of-date, turning 21 years old this November. New Local Plan (Draft) was presented at Special Council on the 28th November 2018.
- Members of the Council rejected the recommendation to publish the New Local Plan (Draft) for consultation, by a vote of 16 to 15.
- There has been little indication as to how the Council intends to progress the new Local Plan following Members’ rejection of a draft in November 2018, and there is considered to be a risk of Government intervention unless progress is made soon.
- The South Essex authorities (Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point, Rochford, Southend, and Thurrock) are preparing a Joint Strategic Plan (JSP) for the sub-region, addressing issues of strategic housing distribution and growth locations across the region.
- Initial consultation was initially expected in spring 2019, but now not anticipated until later in 2019.
- The JSP is scheduled for adoption in autumn 2020, but we consider this be a challenging target for the authorities, particularly given there has already been timetable slippage.

Chelmsford

- The Draft Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State for Examination on the 29th June 2018.
- Examination hearing sessions ran from 20th November 2018 until 13th December 2018.
- Consultation on modifications to the Local Plan is anticipated to follow May 2019 elections.
- The Inspector’s Post Hearing Advice Note dated 8th February indicates the Local Plan will be found sound subject to modifications. Full modifications have yet to be published, but include the removal of reference to ‘valued landscapes’.
- The Local Plan is anticipated to be adopted in summer / early autumn 2019.

Colchester

- New Local Plan to comprise two parts: Section 1 being prepared jointly with Braintree and Tendring (the North Essex Authorities) and addressing strategic issues such as total housing requirements and garden communities; and Section 2 being prepared by the individual authority and including site-specific allocations.
- The Section 1 Strategic Plan Examination has been suspended following the Inspector's comments on soundness of evidence base regarding the North Essex Garden Communities.
- The Inspector's post-hearing letter invited the North Essex Authorities (NEAs) to consider 3 options for taking Section 1 forward.
- On the 19th October 2018, a joint letter from the NEAs was sent to the Inspector outlining an alternative Option 2. Key points:
 - Alternative Option 2 includes the NEAs carrying out necessary further work on the evidence base and SA and bringing forward any resulting revised strategic proposals, before the Commencement of the S2 Examinations. The S1 Examination would be suspended whilst the further work is carried out and consultation on the SA and any revised strategic proposals takes place. Further Section 1 hearings would need to be held to consider the revised strategic proposals.
 - The NEAs have also stated that the updated SA is scheduled to be available in January 2019, before being considered by Council in January / February 2019.
 - The NEAs have confirmed that Examination of Section 1 could take place after Local Elections, in June 2019.
- The Inspector responded to the NEAs joint letter in November 2018, setting out concerns with the proposed strategy, particularly in relation to Garden Communities.
- The examination is currently paused while the NEAs undertake additional work to support the Local Plan, and hearing sessions are anticipated to take place in autumn 2019.
- The NEA's submitted an update on Local Plan progress to the Inspector via a letter dated 1st April 2019. The letter confirms that the project remains on track to deliver on the previously agreed timescale and sets out the various summary of the NEA's approach to addressing the issues raised by the Inspector and subsequent updates on progress.
- Considerable uncertainty continues to surround the Section 1 examination process, with resultant delays to examination of Section 2.

Epping Forest

- The Examination hearing sessions are taking place, and are scheduled to run until 12th June. A host of issues relating to soundness and legal compliance have been raised as part of the examination, and it is considered likely that, if the Local Plan is to be found sound, modifications will be necessary.

Harlow

- The Harlow Local Development Plan (2018) was submitted to the Secretary of State for Independent Examination on the 19th October 2018.
- Examination hearing sessions took place between 28th March – 4th April 2019.

Maldon

- Local Development Plan approved on 25th July 2017.
- No indications as of yet as to timescales for its review.

Rochford

- Local Plan Preferred Options Consultation is scheduled to run in October / November 2019, which will allow it to respond.
- In addition to the Council's own Local Plan, the South Essex authorities (Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point, Rochford, Southend, and Thurrock) are preparing a Joint Strategic Plan (JSP) for the sub-region, addressing issues of strategic housing distribution and growth locations across the region.
- Work is ongoing on the JSP, including exploration of potential growth opportunities. As part of this, Southend, Rochford, and Castle Point Councils have published South East Essex Strategic Growth Locations Assessment. This study was presented to the Council's Planning Policy Sub Committee on 31st January 2019. It does not set or suggest policy, but did identify an area to the north of Southend within Rochford District as having potential to accommodate a major strategic development of 6,000 – 8,000 dwellings.
- Initial consultation was initially expected in spring 2019, but now not anticipated until later in 2019.
- The JSP is scheduled for adoption in autumn 2020, but we consider this be a challenging target for the authorities, particularly given there has already been timetable slippage.

Southend

- Currently working on evidence base and assessing housing need, along with other South Essex Districts.
- Consultation on Local Plan Issues and Options is scheduled to run from 5th February until 2nd April 2019.
- Three options for meeting the Borough's development needs were presented, including the option of a cross-boundary new settlement prepared in conjunction with a neighbouring authority.
- In addition to the Council's own Local Plan, the South Essex authorities (Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point, Rochford, Southend, and Thurrock) are preparing a Joint Strategic Plan (JSP) for the sub-region, addressing issues of strategic housing distribution and growth locations across the region.
- Work is ongoing on the JSP, including exploration of potential growth opportunities. South East Essex Strategic Growth Locations Assessment was presented to the Council's Planning Policy Sub-Committee on 31 January 2019. This study does not set or suggest policy, but did identify an area to the north of Southend within Rochford District as having potential to accommodate a major strategic development of 6,000 – 8,000 dwellings. This study was cited in the Council's Local Plan Issues and Options draft.
- Initial consultation was initially expected in spring 2019, but now not anticipated until later in 2019.
- The JSP is scheduled for adoption in autumn 2020, but we consider this be a challenging target for the authorities, particularly given there has already been timetable slippage.

Tendring

- New Local Plan to comprise two parts: Section 1 being prepared jointly with Braintree and Colchester (the North Essex Authorities) and addressing strategic issues such as total housing requirements and garden communities; and Section 2 being prepared by the individual authority and including site-specific allocations.
- The Section 1 Strategic Plan Examination has been suspended following the Inspector's comments on soundness of evidence base regarding the North Essex Garden Communities.
- The Inspector's post-hearing letter invited the North Essex Authorities (NEAs) to consider 3 options for taking Section 1 forward.
- On the 19th October 2018, a joint letter from the NEAs was sent to the Inspector outlining an alternative Option 2. Key points:
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 - The NEAs have also stated that the updated SA is scheduled to be available in January 2019, before being considered by Council in January / February 2019.
 - The NEAs have confirmed that Examination of Section 1 could take place after Local Elections, in June 2019.
- The Inspector responded to the NEAs joint letter in November 2018, setting out concerns with the proposed strategy, particularly in relation to Garden Communities.
- The examination is currently paused while the NEAs undertake additional work to support the Local Plan, and hearing sessions are anticipated to take place in autumn 2019.
- The NEA's submitted an update on Local Plan progress to the Inspector via a letter dated 1st April 2019. The letter confirms that the project remains on track to deliver on the previously agreed timescale and sets out the various summary of the NEA's approach to addressing the issues raised by the Inspector and subsequent updates on progress.
- Considerable uncertainty continues to surround the Section 1 examination process, with resultant delays to examination of Section 2.
- Council Officers have indicated Section 2 hearing sessions may take place mid-2020, though we consider this to be an optimistic estimate.

Thurrock

- Public Consultation on the Issues and Options 2 began on 12th December 2018 and ended on Friday 8th March 2019.
- The next iteration of the Local Plan, anticipated to set out the Council's preferred strategy, is scheduled for summer 2020.
- In addition to the Council's own Local Plan, the South Essex authorities (Basildon, Brentwood, Castle Point, Rochford, Southend, and Thurrock) are preparing a Joint Strategic Plan (JSP) for the sub-region, addressing issues of strategic housing distribution and growth locations across the region.
- Initial consultation was initially expected in spring 2019, but now not anticipated until later in 2019.
- The JSP is scheduled for adoption in autumn 2020, but we consider this be a challenging target for the authorities, particularly given there has already been timetable slippage.
- The timetable for the JSP should enable the Local Plan and JSP to complement one another.

**Uttlesford**

- Local Plan was submitted for examination on 18th January 2019.
- Louise Crosby MA MRTPI and Elaine Worthington BA (Hons) MT MUED MRTPI have been appointed to examine the soundness and legal compliance of the Local Plan.
- The hearing sessions will take place in two stages and are scheduled to commence on 2nd July 2019.

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